

"FANTASIA ON GREENSLEEVES" (sample poem by CLH)

I look back to transfers, forward to home with you --
Changed by the sound of aspen whispers, harp glisses,
Sacrament rustles, family kisses. I straighten
From slouch to stretch in perimeter strokes, spirals,
Consecutive edges, waltz-eight moves, three-turns, jumps,
Power cross-overs, and spins. Norwegian Grandma,
Swedish Grandpa, German-Austrian Grandfather,
German-Prussian Grandmother. Transformed from babe to
Bible School child, teen-aged seeker, Latter-day Saint.
I change in rhymes: Hallen, gallon, challenge, hollow,
Hallowed; Cynthia, synthesis, sinner, ninny,
Scintillating, forsythia; Leah, Galilee,
Knees, liaison, leaning, leaping, leafing tree. Turned
From trouble to temple, from prisons to praises,
From nightmares to new names, from furnace to forests.
My American English idiolect has:
Wisconsin, Michigan, Mississippi, Utah,
New Mexico, Okinawa, Arizona,
Bolivia, and now the shelter of Pleasant Grove,
Between Mount Timpanogos and the House of God.

--Cynthia L. Hallen